

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A press felt for papermaking comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, wherein the improvement comprises a three-dimensional knitted fabric, comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabric being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface.

2. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, wherein said connecting fibers are monofilament fibers.

3. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the wet paper web contacting surface side relative to said base body.

4. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 2, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the wet paper web contacting surface side relative to said base body.

5. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, wherein said 1 three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the machine contacting surface side relative to said base body.

6. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 2, wherein said 1 three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the machine contacting surface side relative to said base body.

7. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, having at least two base bodies, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided between two of said base bodies.

8. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body are in contact with each other.

9. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, wherein said fibrous assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body.

10. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said fibrous assembly are adhesively bonded to each other.

11. A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 1, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said fibrous assembly are integrated by needle punching.

12. A method for manufacturing a press felt for papermaking, having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and comprising a base body, a

fibrous assembly, and a three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabric being incorporated within the press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric is formed by helically winding a three-dimensional knitted fabric having a width smaller than that of the press felt.

13. A method for manufacturing a press felt for papermaking, having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and comprising a base body, a fibrous assembly, and a three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabric being incorporated within the press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, wherein the three-dimensional knitted fabric is formed by winding at least one knitted fabric in a circular path.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein a series of three-dimensional knitted fabrics are coaxially wound in side-by-side relationship, each of said knitted fabrics having a width smaller than that of the press felt.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the three-dimensional knitted fabric is formed by winding one

three-dimensional knitted fabric having the same width as that of the press felt.